

## FOOD TRUCK POLICY ADVISORY GROUP 1/16/14 MEETING SUMMARY

The meeting was called to order at 6:17 p.m. and began with a review of the consensus items by the Advisory Group members. Their comments are summarized below.

- The West End supports food trucks in the West End. WEBA is sponsoring a Food Truck Rodeo at Southern Towers in May.
- Although the Carlyle Council is opposed to food trucks in Carlyle, they may be amenable to a location further west.
- Did the USPTO actually poll its employees before they decided to oppose food trucks?
- People do not patronize the restaurants in Carlyle because they do not like the restaurants. We need to figure out a middle ground. Young people want variety. If you had 20 -30 year olds here, they would tell you that they want food trucks. Older people come to meetings and reinforce the stereotype of Alexandria being rigid. Can we do a pilot?
- Thinks there could be some compromise about Carlyle because at the end of the meeting they indicated that weekends and special events were ok.
- Who would want to get licensed for a trial/pilot? Licenses are expensive.
- The City should be open for roaming except in the traffic corridors, with the opportunity to revisit traffic corridor areas.
- Food trucks can bring vibrancy to park areas in Carlyle.
- Concern is less about location than frequency from an economic development standpoint. Food trucks are a cool idea, but City needs to regulate them. I like food trucks.
- What is the purpose of a pilot and how would you measure impact?
- Trucks should not be allowed to park in front of restaurants. Is there a demand for food trucks?

A summary of the public comments follows.

- Concerned about food trucks not paying vending fees. Four Mile Run Market wants food trucks. There is no space for them at the Del Ray Market. Del Ray pushes fresh foods and plants.
- Disappointed that his colleagues are not at the meeting. Food trucks will cut into business and cause restaurants to close. Restaurants are highly regulated and food trucks do not contribute to the property tax base. If food trucks are allowed in Carlyle, there will not be any brick and mortar operations there. Some compromise may be possible in Carlyle. Questioned whether food trucks are good for the economic health of the City.
- There will not be a massive onslaught of food trucks. There will be two to four trucks in one area. They will be attractive and cater to a different market than restaurants.
- There is not enough density at lunch time to support food trucks and restaurants.